



Prosecutor Spotlight: Chris Gaal-Immediate Past President of IPAC



Chris Gaal, Monroe County Prosecutor, and most recent past president of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, has shown true leadership in his community through education and outreach programs. Some of his accomplishments include winning the Association of Indiana Counties award for his innovation in the Pharmaceutical Safe Disposal Program. The award was announced at the AIC conference in late September and an educational video was created to promote this effort which hopefully will be adopted by other counties.

Additionally, Chris is the first prosecutor to begin extension of the Human Trafficking Taskforce education efforts outside of Marion County. Through his initiative, 54 first responders received education about this subject in October. Other programs

Chris has been closely involved with include domestic violence outreach, education to university students, and obtaining sexual assault program grants and training for local hospitals. For more information on these programs please see his web site at www.monroeProsecutor.us. Thanks to Chris key members of his local community are highly trained in all of these issues. Congratulations to Chris for earning the award from AIC and for his hard work as President of IPAC. We wish him well in his “retirement” from the position as President, but knowing how active he is in his county, the time spent previously in this role will be dedicated to efforts to help others as demonstrated by his other program initiatives.

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By: Jennifer Thuma

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Welcome Jarrod Holtsclaw

IPAC welcomes Jarrod as the newest President of the organization. As Prosecutor of Greene County, he served as deputy prosecutor for David Powell, Executive Director of IPAC. Jarrod was first elected prosecutor in 2007 and graduated magna cum laude from Indiana University. IPAC looks forward to his leadership during the next year.



Legislative Update

The summer has been a busy one as work continued on the next steps to House Enrolled Act 1006. IPAC was busy reviewing the bill and noting areas in which conflicts appeared or where inadvertent oversights were found. **Steve Johnson**, in particular, analyzed key parts of the legislation in accordance with current case law. Utilizing Steve's experience and abilities as a resource similar to that of a think tank, IPAC was able to provide a good list of important changes to the legislative summer study committee that needed to be made in order for the bill to be more workable even before the committee began meeting.

♦ *Recidivism—Fiscal Studies*

On additional substantive matters, the summer study committee is charged with studying recidivism, and suspended as well as advisory sentences among key items. IPAC has been instrumental in organizing a state-wide study led by **Dr. Roger Jarjoura**, formerly of IUPUI, to analyze recidivism and ways in which the state can save money while also lowering recidivism rates. Led by **Rep. Greg Steuerwald** of Danville, a working group comprised of IPAC, Public Defender Council, ICJI, Judicial Center, Office of Management and Budget, DOC and other key groups has been focused in on this effort. The study, funded by ICJI, is reviewing programs in the following counties: Allen, Marion, Greene, Monroe, Lawrence, St. Joe, Starke, Parke, Marion, Hendricks and Grant. The focus is on mental health, addiction treatment and wrap around re-entry services, and the cross selection of counties represents varying populations and spectrums of programs from many options to no programming available in the particular county. Rep. Steuerwald is especially dedicated to determining the impact to local government so that funding needs may be determined.

Lowering recidivism by just 1% (46 people) in Marion County would save the county over \$1 million per year.

Dr. Jarjoura wrote a key part of a recent study at the Marion County level, which found that lowering recidivism by just 1% (46 people) would save the county over \$1 million per year.

If you have thoughts or input regarding this effort, please contact **Jennifer Thuma** at jthuma@ipac.in.gov or 317-233-3924. It would be helpful to hear from more prosecutors on these important issues. She has been making notes of prosecutor input as she travels across the state for legislative meetings. The regional meetings, organized by **Jennifer Thuma, Legislative Relations & Legislative Chair Aaron Negangard** and **Vice-Chair, Dustin Houchin**, have been successful in helping to educate key legislators about IPAC's legislative initiatives. Additional prosecutors involved in the efforts to study recidivism include Martin County prosecutor **Mike Steiner** who has made a special effort to attend several regional meetings to talk about the desperate need for services at the local level.

On the legislative front, **Aaron** and **Dustin** have been providing nearly daily hands-on input into the legislative process, attending meetings, hearings and reviewing legislation. Aaron has also made significant contributions to the study of Indiana's drug laws, an area in which he specializes. **Pat Harrington** provided helpful and detailed input on the gang enhancement language in HEA 1006 and as a result, this language will be discussed at the next hearing of the study committee. **Pat Baldwin** (Hendricks), **Karen Richards** (Allen), Jim Rosenberry (**Decatur**), **Amy Travis** (Jackson), **Jason Mount** (Scott), **Bruce Embrey** (Miami), **Mike Steiner** (Martin) all attended the legislative hearing on October 8 to offer support for IPAC initiatives.

Additionally, **Jason Mount** and **Mike Dvorak** joined **Dustin** in forming a sub-committee

Legislative Update (continued)

on messaging to develop communication packets, the first of which were sent to all prosecutors in September. A big thanks goes to these prosecutors who are playing a key role in the legislative process. Advancing the legislative initiatives is a team effort, with each prosecutor and IPAC staff utilizing his or her best skills to move the efforts forward and to provide policy makers with the best information with which to make decisions.

♦ *Advisory and Suspended Sentences*

Executive Director David Powell presented on 3 topics on behalf of IPAC at the summer study committee on September 26. The topics were recidivism, advisory and suspended sentences. Many legislative hearings may be accessed on-line now through the Indiana General Assembly web site. Prosecutors are encouraged to listen in or attend if possible. The next hearing will be held on October 31 at 10:00 in Room 130 of the State House and Chairman Young will take testimony on legislative drafts submitted to the committee, including the IPAC legislative agenda. Please contact **Jennifer Thuma** at jthuma@ipac.in.gov if you wish to testify. For a refresher on the IPAC legislative agenda, which was previously sent to you earlier this summer, please see the attachment.

♦ *Titles 7, 9 & 14*

The study committee is also charged with reviewing proportionality in terms of HEA 1006 with **Senator Brent Steele** heading up the Title 14 review, **Rep. Jud McMillin** working on the Title 9 changes and **Senator Young** chairing the Title 7 review. For a full list of membership on the committee, please see www.in.gov/legislative/.

Drug Updates—Legislative Agenda

A key part of the IPAC legislative agenda is focused upon increasing the penalties for drug dealing to levels closer to those that are in law currently. Some helpful information follows below as you talk with legislators and others about drugs in Indiana.

♦ *Heroin*

To that end, it may be helpful to know that a surge in heroin is being seen across the state and country. In every county, IPAC is seeing repeated articles regarding overdoses and drug dealing. The Indiana State Police reports that heroin submissions are up 35% this year. Tragically, the trend state-wide anecdotally seems to be that heroin is impacting young people the most since it is cheaper and sometimes easier to obtain the prescription drugs, which are expensive on the black market.

♦ *Meth*

Indiana also continued with the dubious distinction of being 3rd in the country for meth labs. This scourge as prosecutors know, hits rural counties especially. Attached please find the 2012 meth lab map produced by the Indiana State Police. This may be helpful to use as a resource http://www.in.gov/meth/files/2012_IN_Law_Enf_Lab_Seizures_State_Map.pdf.

An increase in roving meth labs also seems to be occurring, and IPAC has even seen stories in some counties of meth labs above a day care center and other areas close to schools.

♦ *Synthetic Drugs*

A very dangerous drug IPAC is seeing across the state are new synthetic drugs called “Crazy Clown.” Packaged in colorful arrays of inviting shades, these drugs are particularly dangerous to kids because of this marketing approach. Additionally, IPAC is seeing stickers, again geared toward kids, which when ingested, contain drugs. Jennifer Haley is working on ways of dealing with these new synthetic drugs through clarifying legislation at the request of Senator Merritt. ♦

Committee Updates

♦ *Information Technology*

J T. Parker headed up the transition to a new service provider for the prosecutor's computer systems. (number of counties) currently use ProsLink. The IT committee, led by **Stacey Mrak**, developed an RFP last year. The new provider, BC Forward, chosen through that process, has been on the project for several months. Thanks to Stacey, JT and the IT committee for its hard work in moving the process forward smoothly. ♦

♦ *Child Support*

Karla Mantia and **Amy Burgher** worked tirelessly on the child support conference in June. The largest conference ever for IPAC on child support, 619 people attended and in all, 41 sessions were provided. **Karla** has dedicated part of her summer and fall to creating a public awareness campaign for prosecutors in the child support area, in partnership with DCS. As previous director of the Child Support program in Indiana, Karla has an in-depth knowledge of child support and most importantly, of the complex funding stream and federal requirements associated with it. ♦

Kick-off of Anti-Smurfing Education & Communication Campaign

In coordination with the Attorney General's Office, prosecutors in several counties helped to kick off a state-wide education campaign regarding anti-smurfing efforts. A big thanks to **Rob Krieg** (Gibson County), **Nick Hermann** (Vanderburgh), **Travis Clowers** (Posey) **JoAnn Krantz** (Warrick County), **Bob Hunley** (Sullivan) **Terry Modesitt** (Vigo), **Karen Richards** (Allen), **Dan Hampton** (Kosciusko) and **Bernie Carter** (Lake) who participated in press conferences to launch this important education campaign. These prosecutors joined with the Attorney General, Congressman Bucshon and others to increase public awareness around smurfing.

Thanks to all of the prosecutors who participated in these education campaign efforts with media picking up stories as far away as Sacramento California. <http://lakeshorepublicmedia.org/ag-fights-meth-smurfing/> ♦

Prescription Drug Education and Communication Efforts

Prosecutors are helping to launch a communication and education effort across the state regarding prescription drug overdoses. Led by the Attorney General, five seminars are currently being offered to increase awareness about the dangers of prescription drug abuse to compliment a public awareness campaign called "Bitter Pill." Radio, TV, and other ads are occurring across the state to promote education and communication on this effort. Thank you to **Aaron Negangard**, **Karen Richards**, and **Jason Mount** for providing opening remarks and speaking at the seminars, while also participating in press releases to further educate the public on these topics. Communication is key to all of these public education campaigns as awareness begins to build about these issues. www.in.gov/bitterpill ♦

Education and Training

IPAC plays a key role in education and training of prosecutors across the state, keeping them current on the latest case law updates, legislative changes, and new technology which calls for all of our offices to adjust to change. Training updates and calendars are available on the IPAC website. Please remain updated by checking the calendar as new postings appear regularly, as offered by both IPAC and other entities.

In 2012, IPAC provided in education and training across the state. Thus far in 2013, IPAC's training calendar has been booked to capacity. The demand has been great, and IPAC has pushed to accommodate requests. A new program just added this year for example, on Domestic Violence prosecution, was met with great success. The openings for the seminar filled up within just a few hours, with requests for additional training on this subject.

Another important training, provided by TSRP **Chris Daniels** as well as **Robin Bischof**, occurred in August and again capacity was at the limit with waiting lists of police officers and others who wished to attend the program. Additional training requests have been received from the Attorney General's Office and others, demonstrating the demand for IPAC expertise and training sessions. ♦

IPAC Staff Updates

Much to the sadness of IPAC staff, **Sarah Bartolo** announced that she is leaving for a more challenging job as a case worker for DCS in Marion County. Sarah has been with the office for 2 years and is invaluable in her efforts on the IT front. She will be greatly missed. Wish her well as she dedicates her life to helping others, something that Sarah expressed she really wants to do in her career.

Staff Updates (Continued)

David Powell continues to meet with state and local leaders regarding upcoming changes to the Indiana criminal code and the 2 studies under way. As a member of the Criminal Law and Sentencing Policy Study committee, the input from IPAC is essential as the code revision process moves forward. Additionally he serves on a probation related committee for "swift and certain sanctions." A significant role he plays on a daily basis is listening to prosecutor issues, problems and needs, and then finding ways to address those quickly and thoroughly. A great deal of his work involves meeting with other parties to promote prosecutor initiatives and ensure that prosecutors' voices are heard in policy matters.

Suzanne O'Malley has had a busy summer with her recent appointment to the DCS Oversight Committee. With her specialized skills in children's issues as well as sex crimes, her skills are greatly needed in these underserved areas. Additionally, Suzanne is now taking on additional duties with her work in the child support area, assisting Karla Mantia, as new challenges are on the horizon, with complicated funding issues. Wish Suzanne well as her duties have increased along with her workload.

Karla Mantia, with her many years of expertise in child support, is leading the way to clarifying funding issues regarding child support. Because of federal regulations, this is one of the most complex areas of law and anyone working in it realizes quickly that the twists and turns of funding streams present numerous challenges. Thanks to Karla and the child support committee for persevering through the morass of regulations to assist prosecutors with their funding issues.

Amy Burgher and Karla Mantia focused part of their summer on ensuring that the largest child support education seminar in IPAC's history was a success. With over 600 attendees, the registrations seemed to be a never ending stream even up until the day of the conference, thus demand was tremendous.

Staff Updates (continued)

Larry Brodeur has been invaluable to the legislative process this year with his many years of knowledge with **drugs laws**. A key part of the IPAC legislative agenda involves drug dealing increases, and he spent a good deal of time drafting language toward this effort.

Jennifer Haley also specializes in drugs and has been working with Senator Merritt to tweak the synthetic drug law passed last year. Expect to see a bill clarifying some aspects of this law in the 2014 session.

Chris Daniels has been focused on summer study committee efforts to review Title 9 (motor vehicles). A working group consisting of Rep. Jud McMillin, Dustin Houchin, Chris, and the Public Defenders Council has been hard at work on these issues, including automatic license suspensions, HTV and other topics. Title 9 as everyone knows, is a bear and quite confusing to many who deal with it every day. Many parts of Title 9 would benefit from a re-write, but time limitations and the assigned tasks of the study group make for a challenging combination.

Robin Bischof, part-time staff person, led the charge in organizing a domestic violence training this summer in Bloomington, with the help of Suzanne O'Malley. The training filled up within hours and numerous requests were made for additional trainings. This was a very unusual and hard to find training opportunity, so IPAC plans to offer more of these across the state in the future. Participants also enjoyed the location and it appears that Bloomington will be a host for future educational events.

Sharon Everling and Ann Gramling Sharon and Ann keep IPAC on track through their good behind the scenes work to set up educational conferences across the state. Without their dedication, none of the conferences provided this year would be possible. Ann and Sharon work tirelessly to

ensure that the small details that truly make for a successful conference, are taken care of in advance. Those behind the scenes, as we all are aware, frequently are missed in appreciative efforts so be sure and give them a big thanks.

Jennifer Thuma assisted in coordinating press conferences with a number of prosecutors and the Attorney General, and she has been very busy working on the IPAC legislative initiatives. She also presented at the Human Trafficking training hosted by Chris Gaal in Monroe County to first responders in October.

IPAC Conferences

2013 Winter Conference

December 8-11, 2013
Sheraton Hotel—Keystone at the Crossing

2014 Spring Seminar

May 9, 2014
Marriott Indianapolis North

2014 Child Support Conference

June 3-6, 2014
Belterra Resort, Florence Indiana

2014 Summer Conference

June 18-20, 2014
Bloomington, Indiana

2014 Newly Elected School & Winter Conference

December 7-12, 2014
Sheraton Hotel—Keystone at the Crossing